



General Assembly

Amendment

February Session, 2016

LCO No. 5249



Offered by:

SEN. LOONEY, 11th Dist.
SEN. DUFF, 25th Dist.
SEN. COLEMAN, 2nd Dist.
SEN. DOYLE, 9th Dist.

SEN. SLOSSBERG, 14th Dist.
SEN. GERRATANA, 6th Dist.
SEN. KENNEDY, 12th Dist.
SEN. FASANO, 34th Dist.

To: Subst. Senate Bill No. **228**

File No. 372

Cal. No. 259

***"AN ACT CONCERNING DAMAGES FOR THE UNLAWFUL
KILLING OR INJURING OF A COMPANION ANIMAL AND
REQUIRING A REPORT FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE CONCERNING THE TETHERING OF DOGS."***

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and substitute the
2 following in lieu thereof:

3 "Section 1. Subsection (b) of section 22-351a of the general statutes is
4 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
5 *1, 2016*):

6 (b) Any person who intentionally kills or injures a companion
7 animal, except in defense of such person or another person or as
8 otherwise authorized by law, shall be liable to the owner of such
9 companion animal for economic damages sustained by such owner
10 including, but not limited to, expenses of veterinary care, the fair
11 monetary value of the companion animal and burial expenses for the

12 companion animal. Additionally, the court may award damages, not to
13 exceed seven thousand five hundred dollars, to the owner of a service
14 dog for the loss of such dog upon receipt of evidence concerning the
15 length of ownership of such dog, the use of such dog in serving the
16 owner and the disposition or temperament of such service dog.

17 Sec. 2. (*Effective from passage*) Not later than January 1, 2017, the
18 Commissioner of Agriculture, in consultation with the Chief Animal
19 Control Officer and in accordance with section 11-4a of the general
20 statutes, shall submit a report to the joint standing committee of the
21 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to domestic
22 animals concerning the adequacy of the provisions of section 22-350a
23 of the general statutes in protecting the health and welfare of tethered
24 or confined dogs in this state. Such report shall include, but not be
25 limited to, an analysis on the need to amend said section to include a
26 requirement that any tethered dog have access to adequate shelter, a
27 description of the components of any such adequate shelter
28 requirement and any recommendations concerning restrictions on the
29 duration for tethering or confining a dog in compliance with said
30 section.

31 Sec. 3. Section 3 of public act 14-205 is repealed and the following is
32 substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

33 (a) There is established a task force to study the humane treatment
34 of animals in municipal and regional shelters and other matters
35 concerning the operation of such municipal and regional shelters. The
36 task force shall consider: (1) Recommendations for the establishment of
37 standards for the humane treatment of animals in such shelters; (2)
38 existing education and training standards for animal control officers
39 on current license laws; (3) rules and regulations regarding and
40 penalties for abuse; (4) the development of a system to track persons
41 who have been convicted of animal abuse in order to prevent such
42 persons from acquiring animals from shelters in other municipalities
43 or states; (5) the establishment of standards for such shelters to use
44 when evaluating potential adopters for such animals; (6) the

45 establishment of rules and responsibilities for volunteer groups that
46 work with such shelters and animal control officers; and (7) the
47 creation of a framework to coordinate the efforts of local humane
48 organizations with volunteer groups, foster groups and municipal and
49 regional animal shelters.

50 (b) In addition to the Commissioner of Agriculture or the
51 commissioner's designee, the task force shall consist of the following
52 members:

53 (1) Two appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives,
54 one of whom shall be a member of a local animal welfare advocacy
55 organization and one whom shall be a sworn officer of a municipal
56 police department;

57 (2) Two appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate, one
58 of whom shall be an animal control officer and one who shall be a
59 representative of the judicial branch;

60 (3) One appointed by the majority leader of the House of
61 Representatives, who shall be a chief elected official from a town with
62 a population of more than twenty-five thousand persons;

63 (4) One appointed by the majority leader of the Senate, who shall be
64 a licensed veterinarian;

65 (5) One appointed by the minority leader of the House of
66 Representatives, who shall be a person who volunteers to work with
67 municipal animal shelters and animal control officers; and

68 (6) One appointed by the minority leader of the Senate, who shall be
69 a chief elected official from a town with a population of twenty-five
70 thousand persons or less.

71 (c) Any member of the task force appointed under subdivision (1),
72 (2), (3), (4), (5) or (6) of subsection (b) of this section may be a member
73 of the General Assembly.

74 (d) All appointments to the task force shall be made not later than
 75 thirty days after the effective date of this section. Any vacancy shall be
 76 filled by the appointing authority.

77 (e) The speaker of the House of Representatives and the president
 78 pro tempore of the Senate shall select the chairpersons of the task force
 79 from among the members of the task force. Such chairpersons shall
 80 schedule the first meeting of the task force, which shall be held not
 81 later than sixty days after the effective date of this section.

82 (f) The administrative staff of the joint standing committee of the
 83 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to local
 84 governments shall serve as administrative staff of the task force.

85 (g) Not later than January 1, [2015] 2018, the task force shall submit
 86 a report on its findings and recommendations to the joint standing
 87 committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
 88 relating to local governments and the environment, in accordance with
 89 the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes. The task force
 90 shall terminate on the date that it submits such report or January 1,
 91 [2015] 2018, whichever is later.

92 Sec. 4. Special act 15-19 is repealed. (*Effective from passage*)"

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2016</i>	22-351a(b)
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>from passage</i>	PA 14-205, Sec. 3
Sec. 4	<i>from passage</i>	Repealer section